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Subject: The Power of Reclaimed Water
Date: Thursday, January 17, 2019 5:35:25 AM

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The Power of Reclaimed Water

The world's population continues to grow, demanding more and more output from fewer resources. This strain is felt acutely in the power industry. New plants are built to accommodate the growing population's power needs, requiring more

water than ever for power generation and cooling. As freshwater resources continue to dwindle, more plants are turning to reclaimed water.

Treated municipal wastewater, or reclaimed water, is one of the most available sources for power plants and can be an effective tool for reducing freshwater usage.

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Radio Interview: Water Reuse within the Power Industry

Veolia's power expert, Michael Pudvay, discusses the trend of secondary municipal effluent being utilized for raw water make-up including its use at a new power station in Pennsylvania.

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Advantages of using reclaimed water for cooling

The use of treated municipal effluent for cooling is proven and safe. In the U.S. it began in the 1970s. It's estimated that today, more than 70 of the country's power sites are using treated, reclaimed water - and not just in dry areas.

Treated municipal effluent is a virtually risk-free source. It has consistent quality and temperature compared to surface waters. Because secondary effluent is relatively consistent in quality, the process, design and operation of any further treatment required for reuse is simplified.

Also, the cooling tower blowdown may be able to be returned to the municipality, eliminating one of the waste streams needing treatment at the power plant.

Article: Reclaimed Water Reduces Stress on Freshwater Supplies

Power generation need not be another source of strain on diminishing freshwater resources. Well-established water reclamation technologies are enabling producers to conserve resources—and money.

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